1864 - 1964

PROCLAMATION

Hear ye! Hear ye! Be it known to all and sundry that the Centennial Fund Drive is now officially launched and that this campaign will continue until 1964 when Gallaudet College will be celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its founding. For your further information please read the following:

Once in a Hundred Years

The closing hours of the 24th Triennial Reunion of the Gallaudet College Alumni Association on August 8, 1960, must have pleased the souls of Gallaudet, of Hall, of all those stalwarts who have gone before. For it was a time when their confidence of almost a hundred years was again justified in the sort of alumni action to be expected from educated men and women.

GENESIS

The Centennial Fund Commission was established by vote of the G.C.A.A. at this reunion. The motion also set the responsibility to raise a substantial fund to be presented to Gallaudet College as "a proper manifestation of the deep and permanent obligation Gallaudetians owe Alma Mater." This same motion expressed the organization preference that the funds received be used "as a permanent means of cultural and intellectual advancement."

GENERAL PURPOSES

The establishment and growth of the Centennial Fund is both an act of gratitude and a declaration of faith. It expresses the gratitude of all deaf people: to Edward Miner Gallaudet and all the dedicated persons who worked with and after him; to the Government of the United States which has always contributed a large share of the support of the College, including the striking expansion of recent years; and to the American principle of equal opportunity for all, upon which the ultimate justification of the College rests. It declares the givers' faith in an investment to push the frontiers of education and culture for all deaf people.

Because of its unique position and the faith in deaf people upon which it was founded, Gallaudet College is obligated to stand at the forefront and to promote actively all worth-while social, cultural and educational aspirations of all deaf persons. The Centennial Fund would assist in these pioneering activities beyond the usual limits of governmental support. Examples of such advancement might be:

- Scholarships for deaf graduate students.
- An international house or an alumni house.
- Research about deafness.
- Adult education.
- New frontiers of service.
- Promotion of drama among the deaf.
- Encouragement of the arts among the deaf.
- Research and education concerning the Sign Language.
- Research and development of visual aids.
- Sponsorship of publications for, by and about the deaf.
- Development of the College collection of books on deafness and the deaf.

The list above does not show all, or necessarily the best, avenues of advancement; it is meant only to illustrate. The Centennial Commission encourages discussion of possible goals during the course of the drive.

METHODS

The Centennial Fund Drive is open to all who have faith that deaf persons can succeed in educational and cultural endeavors. The first donors (of $2,000) were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schoneman of Jacksonville, Ill. Mr. Schoneman is a 1908 Gallaudet graduate; Mrs. Schoneman did not attend. Deaf people of all backgrounds are giving to the Fund and so are hearing friends and acquaintances, visitors and Government officials who have sensed the potentials of deaf people and wish to share in their development.

This is a rare opportunity to give. Hence the Commission is seeking substantial gifts. Several dozen have given $1,000 or more; many look upon $100 as a minimum donation (only $2 per month during the four years of the campaign). To assist donors in giving freely a pledge system has been established. You can pledge a substantial amount and arrange to pay it off in whatever installments suit your convenience. In the opinion of counsel your contribution under this pledge will be deductible for Federal income tax purposes in the year when payment is made.

Pledges can be made for the four years or for one. The campaign will be conducted in four annual waves and all will be given an opportunity to change their pledges if they wish.

Extreme care is being taken to protect your gifts until the Fund is presented to Gallaudet College in 1964. The accounting system has all the generally accepted accounting controls, a voucher system, bonding of the treasurer, periodic audits.

Recommendations on investments will be made by a committee consisting of Messrs. Elliott Fox and John K. Cloud, members of the New York Stock Exchange; Warren Forster, chairman of the Union Trust Co. and treasurer of the Board of Directors of Gallaudet College; Leon Auerbach and Alan B. Crammatte, members of the Centennial Commission. This committee will review the investment portfolio regularly.

Certain groupings are developing among donors to the Centennial Fund. The Pacesetters Club includes all who have given $1,000 or more. The Centurions have pledged a century note. Gifts are being credited to the G.C.A.A. chapters throughout the nation and a spirited competition is expected to develop. Likewise classes are toting up the amounts their members have given. The graduate students and normal fellows will conduct a campaign under the direction of Supt. H. M. Quigley, G-'27, a Commission member. Results will probably be announced in our next release.

In a pre-campaign canvass the Centennial Commission has built up a nest egg of $35,000. The Centennial Drive is thus sent off to a dramatic start. With everyone pitching in we should realize $100,000 this year and exceed our original minimum objective many times over.

To pick up new ideas, suggestions and recommendations from among the grassroots, Dr. David Peikoff, the Centennial chieftain, has already contacted a good number of alumni chapters and he plans on a more extensive coverage as the first step of the campaign.

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